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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

C1. Claims 1-56 Cancelled

57.(New) A method for global protection of objects having electronic operating components capable of receiving a radio signal, comprising:
providing an object having a plurality of electronic operating components in electronic communication with one another, and wherein at least one of said plurality of electronic operating components is capable of receiving a radio signal;
generating a radio signal from an air-borne source that is receivable by said at least one electronic operating component of said object;
receiving said radio signal by said at least electronic operating component of said object;
initiating irreversible deactivation of said object by said at least one electronic operating component following receipt of said radio signal; and
causing alteration of said at least one electronic operating component and/or information of said at least one electronic operating component by said radio signal such that normal operation of the object is no longer possible.

58.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components are each capable of receiving a radio signal independently of one another and further comprising the intercommunication between said plurality of electronic operating components of a confirmation that a radio signal has been received to initiate an irreversible deactivation of said object.

59.(New) The method according to claim 57 further comprising transmitting said radio signal regularly to monitor said plurality of electronic operating components and,

upon failure of said radio signal to appear, generating a signal to a user to bring at least one of said plurality of electronic operating components into radio contact within a predetermined interval of time.

60.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said radio signals are radiated in particular from one or more flying bodies, such as satellites or airships.

61.(New) The method according to claim 60 wherein said generating of said radio signal from said one or more flying bodies is effected by a transmission signal from an emergency center or another central place.

62.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein both the transmission of said radio signal from said air-borne source and said initiating of irreversible deactivation occur immediately.

63.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein both the transmission of said radio signal from said air-borne source and said initiating of irreversible deactivation occur with a time delay.

64.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said at least one electronic operating component capable of receiving a radio signal also contains unique identifying numbers worldwide.

65.(New) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted once.

66.(New) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted periodically.

67.(New) The method according to claim 58 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components each capable of receiving a radio signal also contain, as a unit, unique identifying numbers worldwide.

68.(New) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted once.

69.(New) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are transmitted periodically.

70.(New) The method according to claim 64 wherein said unique identifying numbers are held in a database.

71.(New) The method according to claim 67 wherein said unique identifying numbers are held in a database.

72.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said plurality of electronic components capable of receiving a radio signal are also capable of sending signals back to said air-borne source after reception of one or more identifying numbers.

73.(New) The method according to claim 72 wherein said signals which are sent back are also used for finding the position of said object.

74.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said radio signal includes check sums which allow transmission errors and/or counterfeits to be recognized.

75.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein the authentic transmission of said radio signal is secured by unique codes.

76.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein the effected irreversible deactivation can be checked subsequent to the object being stolen by checking data unique to the object.

77.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein said irreversible deactivation can be effected by a regulated slow deactivation subsequent to receipt of said radio signal.

78.(New) The method according to claim 57 wherein activation of said object having a plurality of electronic operating components can only be effected by replacement of all said electronic operating components.

79.(New) Apparatus for global protection of objects having electronic operating components, comprising an object having at least one electronic operating component positioned in proximity to said object, said at least one electronic operating component being capable of receiving a radio signal from an air-borne source or containing resident information within said electronic operating component which is capable of being altered by a radio signal such that upon receipt of such radio signal, the normal operation of the object is no longer possible due to irreversible deactivation of said at least one electronic operating component.

80.(New) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein said object further comprises a plurality of electronic operating components, each electronic operating component being capable of receiving a radio signal and each being in communication with another electronic operating component to provide confirmation to said other electronic operating components of receipt of said radio signal to initiate irreversible deactivation of said object.

81.(New) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein each said electronic operating component is structured to receive and evaluate a radio signal independently of one another.

82.(New) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components are formed as a unit interconnected electronically.

83.(New) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said unit of electronic operating components further includes decoder logic.

84.(New) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components is integrated in a vehicle.

85.(New) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said plurality of electronic operating components is integrated in a vehicle key.

86.(New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is integrated in a mobile telephone.

87.(New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is fitted in a chip card.

88.(New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is positioned in an electronically coded card.

89.(New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said electronic operating component is positioned in a personal audio listening device.